

HEALTH
A 17 OCT 1944
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Urban District of Solihull.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1943,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

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1, MILVERTON HILL,

LEAMINGTON SPA.

August, 1944.

To the Solihull Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MRS. TIMMS AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith the Report for 1943 ; this is the 25th Report which I have presented to you.

As instructed by the Ministry of Health, the Report is only a short statement of fact. All available information is being kept for record and can be produced.

With many thanks for much kindness on the part of the members of the Council and my colleagues.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Timms and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,
Medical Officer of Health.

Solihull Urban District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1943	...	...	—
Birth Rate	...	...	22.8
Still Births—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	23
Death Rate	...	...	8.8
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	{ From Sepsis ,, other causes	...	— 2
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	37
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			36
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	60
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	2

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. *Public Health Officers.*—During the year we had a Chief Sanitary Inspector, a Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and one additional Sanitary Inspector.

6. *Laboratory Facilities.*—Bacteriological examinations by the Birmingham University :—

	Positive.	Negative.	Total.
Diphtheria	26	172	198
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	16	87	103
			301

8. *Hospitals*.—There are no changes to report in the statement given in the Report for 1941. The work of the Hospital has continued to increase both in its scope and variety, and continuous progress has been made in equipment and staffing.

13.—*Ambulance Facilities*.—The Ambulances are housed at The Hermitage, Lode Lane, Solihull. Telephone Number : 2683 Solihull.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. (i) *Water Supply*.—The mains of the City of Birmingham and City of Coventry Water Departments are available for practically the whole of the populous parts of the Urban District. More than 90% of the houses in the District are so supplied. This number is constantly increasing.

There are approximately 834 private wells supplying 1,195 houses.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage*.—Conditions remain much the same as was indicated in my last Report.

The four Cesspool Emptying Machines are kept very fully employed ; there are about 670 Cesspools in the District.

3. (i) *Closet Accommodation*.—About 90% of the Closets are water flushed. It is estimated that there are about 900 Pail Closets in the District, of which 850 are emptied weekly by the Local Authority ; in special cases this work is done twice weekly.

(ii) *Public Cleansing*.—House Refuse is removed under the Council's Scavenging Scheme ; the majority of the houses in the District are provided with approved ash-bins.

The system of " Controlled Tipping " is in use, and all the Tips are well kept and a credit to the Council, although labour difficulties have led to some complaints.

(iv) SHOPS ACT, 1934.—Due to limitation of stocks the need of enforcing early closing hours has been considerably reduced. Routine visits have been paid to enforce those provisions of the Acts dealing with sanitary provisions and comfort of workers.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.—No complaints were received.

SCHOOLS.—The Elementary Schools and private schools of the District have been inspected as occasion arose.

RATS.—A direction was received during the year from the Ministry of Food that the Council investigate the extent of rat infestation in the district and an experienced operator was engaged in October to carry out this work.

D. HOUSING.

Full particulars of the usual table have been compiled and are being kept for record purposes.

3. *Overcrowding*.—There were many cases of overcrowding during the year ; this was unavoidable and there was no possible method of alleviation.

4. *Fitness of Houses*.—Owing to the staff being decreased and many other activities being imposed on those remaining, no routine housing inspection was possible, but complaints were investigated and followed up as they were received. Two demolition orders were served.

Water Supply.—Where the water mains are available, it is the rule for the supply to be taken into the houses. When the only supply is from wells, the pump is almost invariably inside. Towards the close of the year a shortage of water developed, particularly in the Tidbury Green area due apparently to sub-normal rainfall.

Closet Accommodation.—Apart from a few instances, there is usually private accommodation for each house.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) *Milk Supply*.—At the end of the year 1943, there were on the Register, Cowkeepers 90, Cowkeepers who retail the whole or part of their milk 18, Retailers 37, and Milk-shops 50.

Supplementary Licences have been granted for the sale of Tuberculin Tested, Accredited and Pasteurised Milk.

Two licences were granted in respect of two Pasteurising Establishments.

Tuberculous Milk.—73 samples of milk were sent to the Birmingham University to be examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli ; no Tubercle Bacilli were found in any of these samples. The samples were “ mixed ones.”

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Disease since 1937.

		Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1938	...	62	78	1	50	—	6
1939	...	18	50	3	54	—	9
1940	...	24	68	12	40	—	4
1941	...	6	28	24	37	—	4
1942	...	17	91	—	58	1	1
1943	...	12	175	1	71	—	3

Reference to Table III. will give the age distribution of the cases notified in 1943.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Immunisation continued throughout the year, and at December 31st, 1943, 4,168 children of school age had been treated, and 1,937 under school age, giving a grand total of 6,106 immunised up to the end of 1943.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—The following list of school closures indicates fairly accurately the incidence of these diseases:—

No schools closed.

Notifications of all Infectious Disease occurring amongst school children are duly forwarded to me from the schools.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

			NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
			Non-				Non-			
			Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.	
AGE—PERIODS			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	—	—	...	—	—	...	—
1	...	...	...	—	—	...	1	1	...	—
5	...	...	...	—	2	...	3	2	...	2
15	...	...	...	4	7	...	—	—	...	1
25	...	...	...	13	6	...	—	1	...	—
35	...	...	...	9	—	...	1	—	...	1
45	...	...	...	4	—	...	—	—	...	—
55	...	...	...	3	—	...	—	—	...	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	1	—	...	—	2	...	—
TOTALS	...	...	34	15	...	5	6	...	12	3

60 new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, 49 being Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 11 of other forms.

30 cases were admitted to Sanatorium during the year, 26 were discharged after treatment.

18 deaths were due to Pulmonary tuberculosis, 6 to Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis. Of the 60 cases notified during the year, 7 died.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The information for this Report is available.

TABLE I.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1943.

			Inspections and Observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances Abated after Notices.
				Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools	...		712	3	177	159
Lodging Houses	...	...	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	110	—	—	—
Cowsheds	...	...	153	1	2	2
Bakehouses	...	...	2	—	1	1
Other Food Premises	...	...	158	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	...	...	—	—	—	—
Caravans and Camp Sites	...	...	42	—	—	—
Ashpits and Ashbins	...	...	195	10	23	23
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	...	...	19	1	2	3
Water-closets	...	...	—	—	7	8
House Drainage	...	...	495	—	63	65
Water Supply	...	...	79	1	3	4
Pigsties	...	...	54	1	—	1
Animals improperly kept	...	...	11	—	2	2
Factories	...	...	29	—	2	2
Smoke Nuisances	...	...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	...	...	33	—	33	33
Verminous Premises	...	...	77	—	6	6
Rat infested Premises	...	...	275	—	1	1
Swimming Pools	...	...	30	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases and Disinfections	...	...	262	—	—	—
Milk Samples	...	...	637	—	—	—
Miscellaneous...	...	...	1065	—	14	17
TOTALS	...	...	4438	17	336	327

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food	...	...	No.
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	...	...	108
Ditto of Food found adulterated	...	...	—
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	50
Samples of Water not in all respects satisfactory	...	...	26

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	...	...	49
Houses Disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	219
Schools ditto ditto ditto	...	...	—

E. VAUGHAN, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1943 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1937	45,360	849	18.7	51	60	443	9.8
1938	48,310	1,011	21.0	34	34	376	7.8
1939	—	—	19.9	—	28	—	7.6
1940	—	—	19.1	—	54	—	10.6
1941	—	—	18.8	—	54	—	9.3
1942	—	—	19.8	—	43	—	9.2
1943	—	—	22.8	—	37	—	8.8

TABLE III.

SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1943.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	12	.....	3	.....	5	3	1	.....	11	.....
Erysipelas	14	.....	.....	1	1	3	6	3	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	175	1	51	99	13	9	2	1	107	.....
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever	1	.....	1	.....					
Pneumonia	71	4	7	7	7	21	14	11	.....	24
Malaria										
Dysentery										
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	.....			1	2				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	.....	1	.....					
Poliomyelitis										
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3								
Polio-Encephalitis										
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	49	.....	.....	2	11	28	7	1	.....	20
Other forms of Tuberculosis	11	...	2	5	.....	2	...	2	.....	7
Totals	340	8	65	114	38	68	30	18	118	51

TABLE IV.
SOLIHULL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1943.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	278	259
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	13	7
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	6
8 Syphilitic Diseases	2	—
9 Influenza	10	9
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of B. Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	1	7
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	6	7
15 Cancer of Breast	—	13
16 Cancer, other Sites	32	23
17 Diabetes	3	3
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	20	32
19 Heart Disease	75	55
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	6	4
21 Bronchitis	11	7
22 Pneumonia	9	15
23 Other Resp. Diseases	2	7
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	5	—
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	1	1
26 Appendicitis	1	1
27 Other Digestive Diseases	9	9
28 Nephritis	11	11
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	2
31 Premature Birth	4	7
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	14	15
33 Suicide	4	1
34 Road Traffic Accidents	4	1
35 Other Violent Causes	7	2
36 All Other Causes	27	14

